



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Office of the Superintendent
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271-9651

(559) 565-3341 phone
(559) 565-3730 fax
<http://www.nps.gov/seki>

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks News Release

For Immediate Release – August 24, 2009

Contact Adrienne Freeman 559/ 565-3131

Public Invited to Informational Site Visit at Crystal Cave in Sequoia National Park

The public is invited to visit Crystal Cave on Tuesday, September 1, 2009 for an informational presentation on the cave area facilities. A special cave tour will be provided at 10 am for meeting participants, with an informational presentation to follow at the Crystal Cave parking lot at 11:30 am. Due to limited access in the cave, only the first 50 people who RSVP at 559/565-3102 will be able to take advantage of the free cave tour. However, all are welcome to attend the 11:30 public meeting and additional cave tours are offered throughout the day. More information on Crystal Cave tours can be found at: <http://www.sequoiahistory.org/cave/cave.htm> or by calling (559) 565-3759.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Park and the Sequoia Natural History Association are seeking input from the public in preparation for developing an environmental assessment. The goal of the project is to improve the existing visitor facilities to provide a better visitor experience while restoring and protecting important cave resources. Work being considered includes improving the parking lot and picnic area, replacing the existing bathrooms with vault toilets, rehabilitating the access trail to the cave, constructing a new sales and information facility, and relocating the visitor gathering area at the cave and restoring the cave entrance to improve habitat and ecology.

Park and Association staff will be on-hand to answer questions about infrastructure and cave management at the public meeting.

The public comment period is open from August 24, 2009 to September 25, 2009. Public comment may be submitted online by selecting Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks at the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment website, <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/seki>. The public may also direct comments regarding this project to the park in writing by sending an e-mail to seki_planning@nps.gov, or the public may mail or hand deliver their comments to:

Superintendent

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks
Attn: Crystal Cave Redevelopment and Restoration Project
47050 Generals Highway
Three Rivers, CA 93271

All comments must be received by September 25, 2009.

Park entrance fee will be waived for program participants.

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